# Drought

## '80 second driest year

By JAMES A SMITH
Extension Agent

The year 1980 is the second driest on record with a total precipitation of 29.60 inches. This compares with 25.01 inches in 1963.

The driest month in 1980 was December with only .42 inch. There were three months with less than an inch of rain–February, June and December. There were three months with above average rainfall–January, March and April. This simply means we are into our 10th month with below normal rainfall.

Fred Jones, local well driller, was telling me last week that the water table has dropped 8 to 10 feet.

Recharging ponds and streams is critical as it is with wells. There have been a few wells reported going dry.

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One of the good meetings each year is the Southern Piedmont Forage Conference. This year it will be held at the American Legion Building, Chase City, Tuesday, January 27–9:30 - 3:00.

Programs are available from this office; we encourage your participation.

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There are some effective marketing strategies that can be used to maximize profits. To help you understand some of these techniques, a two-day workshop is scheduled in Richmond February 17 - 18. It could be your best two days.

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The deadline for filing for a SBA Farm Drought Loan is March 5, 1981. Forms may be picked up from this office. We are told that 200 Virginia farmers have received approval for more than 16 million dollar loans for crop losses incurred last year.

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Appomattox dairymen on the average lose $6305 annually by allowing cows to remain open excessive days. Again, on the average, if the time span was reduced one day there would be a savings of $186.17.

When we talk about management, this is a good example of what the term relates to–taking actions to maximize profits.

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1981 brings three All-America Award plants; each received the Bronze Award. The plants are Impatiens "Blitz" hybrid, Dwarf, Plume Celasia "Apricot Brandy" and Sweet Yellow Pepper "Gypsy" hybrid.

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There is an old story about starting from scratch. I'm told that years ago when prepared cake mixes first came out, they didn't sell well because they contained everything needed except water or milk. Sales improved when the manufacturer left out something that the cook could add–eggs.

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The cook wants to participate; that is why some prefer recipes from scratch.

Starting a garden from scratch brings the same satisfaction. When you grow food crops and flowers for yourself or your family, you get maximum satisfaction by starting from seeds.

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Ornamental peppers are a hot new idea for the home and garden. There's a wide selection that can be used for edging beds of annual flowers or evergreens shrubs, wherever there is a full sun.

There's no disappointment in fruit shapes and colors. Fruit shapes range from long, curved and finger-like to thimble, oval or round. Varieties have a range of colors–yellow, red or purple. Some have variegated foliage, purple and green. The choice is really yours in '81.

DR. ROGER BEEKER, Chairman of Engineering Division at CVCC, explains programs to ACHS seniors Darnell Trent, Ricky Harris, and Greg Mosley.

## CVCC official explains programs in ACHS talk

Recently Dr. Bob Bashore, Director of Student Services at Central Virginia Community College, and eight members of the CVCC faculty visited ACHS to explain the varied programs available to students.

A slide presentation allowed students to view the modern facilities of the CVCC campus and to see students actually involved in learning situations of each department. At the conclusion of the slide program students participated in small group sessions of their choice in order to receive information such as course descriptions and career objectives of specific programs.

In addition to a session on financial aid, students chose from groups which correspond to the academic divisions of the College: Business, Engineering, Humanities, Social Sciences, Math/Science, and Allied Health. Information explained to our students was applicable not only to community college programs but also to programs in four-year institutions.

## Workshop slated for graduating seniors at ACHS

Because of rising college costs that place heavy financial burdens upon most families of college students, financial aid opportunities have become important sources of relief.

In order to explain financial aid programs, particularly the federal and state sources of funds, the ACHS Guidance Department is sponsoring a workshop for parents and students of this year's graduating class. Information on completing the Virginia Financial Aid Form will be presented, and questions from students and parents will be entertained.

To present the program will be financial aid directors at CVCC, Lynchburg College and Randolph-Macon Women's College. The meeting will take place in the ACHS auditorium, at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 1981, and anyone interested is invited to attend.

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## "The South 40" by JAMES A. SMITH EXTENSION AGENT

## Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK SWEET
Extension Agent

Laurie Cowan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Cowan, is attending the Southeastern Poultry and Egg Convention in Atlanta, Georgia this week. Laurie's expense paid trip is part of her award as the top scoring individual in the State 4-H Egg Grading Contest last June. Featured speaker during the convention will be Mr. Mike Wallace, CBS news correspondent.

Laurie is a member of the 4-H Teen Leaders where she serves as club treasurer.

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4-H Public Speaking programs will begin at Appomattox Elementary School on January 28 and continue through early February. Many 4-H'ers are earnestly working on speeches for the program that annually involves more than 200 young people. Farmers National Bank provides special awards for 4-H Public Speaking.

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4-H Achievement Records are due in the Extension Office on Monday, January 26.

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Over 50 4-H'ers have sent in applications to obtain loblolly pine seedlings from the Virginia Division of Forestry. These pine seedlings will usually arrive in late March. The 4-H'ers who receive trees will be instructed on how to plant and take care of the trees.

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The Annual 4-H Awards Banquet will be held at the ACHS Cafeteria on February 6. 4-H'ers who have done outstanding project work during the past year will be invited to attend this program.

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The 4-H Meats Judging and 4-H Forestry Judging Teams have already begun practicing. The first meeting of the Soils Judging Team will be held Wednesday, January 28, at 3:30 p.m. in the Soil Conservation Service Office. Interested 4-H'ers are invited to participate.

Practices for Egg Grading and Livestock Judging will begin in the near future.

## Miss Dickerson honored

Lisa Dickerson of Pamp' was recently initiated into ' Kappa Phi, 'a scholastic honorary society at Radford University.

Ms. Dickerson, a senior recreation administration major, is the daughter of E. W. Dickerson of Rt. 2.

Membership includes those who have achieved junior, senior or graduate standing and who have a minimum of a 3.4 quality point average.

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501 Mini Market, Naruna
DRAWING WILL BE HELD MARCH 2
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*Safety tips*

# Prepare for winter's ice

By SHIRLEY W. WALTON
Extension Agent

The icy fingers of winter have made themselves known in our area of the country. Winter storm safety procedures are second nature to those persons living in the Northern and Western parts of our country. But for some of us, this common knowledge may not be so common. I wish to share with you some items to be concerned about during this period of winter weather.

1. Pay attention to weather forecasts.
2. Check battery powered equipment, emergency cooking equipment and flashlights. Many persons who are using wood stoves have an alternate heating and cooking source. We are much better off than we were a few years ago when we had power failures.
3. Check your supply of heating fuel. Fuel carriers may not be able to deliver during heavy snow.
4. Stock extra food. Include food that needs no cooking.
5. If power is out, keep your refrigerator door closed. The food in your refrigerator and freezer will be safe from spoilage a minimum of 2 days if you don't open them at all.
6. Prevent fires by not overheating your stove, heater or furnace. Don't leave fireplaces unattended.
7. Stay indoors as much as possible. Cold winds and temperatures put extra stress on your body.
8. If you must go out, wear several layers of loose fitting clothing. Layers of clothing trap warm air next to your body.
9. Get your car winterized. Keep the tank filled and be sure to use snow tires and chains when needed.
10. If you must travel in bad weather, be sure someone knows where you are going and the time you expect to arrive. This only makes common sense.

Homemakers, I hope that the above ten items will become common knowledge for us as we weather the winter storms. All of us will soon be looking forward to springtime and another winter will be behind us, but meanwhile let's keep safety foremost in our minds.

If you have a homemaking question or problem, you may call 352-8244 or write us at P. O. Box 488, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

Have a good week!

## Good news for homemakers

**RECIPE OF THE WEEK**
**Coconut Pound Cake**

1 box Pineapple Supreme cake mix
2 Teaspoons butter nut flavoring

Mix as directed. After mixing for 2 minutes stir in 1 cup of flaked coconut. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes in tube pan.

**Orange Glaze**

½ cup orange juice
½ teaspoon grated orange rind (can omit)
1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar

Mix ingredients. Let stand on top of oven while baking cake, stirring occassionally. When cake is baked, punch holes on top surface with a fork. Pour the warm glaze, a little at a time, over the top. Return cake to oven for 3 minutes with glaze. Let cake set in pan for 10 minutes before removing from pan.

## Miss Rosser honored

Miss Susan Marie Rosser, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse M. Rosser, Appomattox, Virginia, has been named to the Dean's List for the past semester at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.

The List is comprised of students who have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 grading scale.

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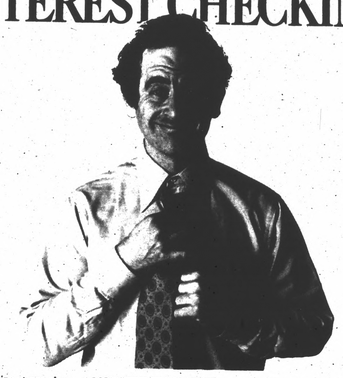

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